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# On a question of Furuta on chaotic order

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## Abstract

The chaotic order  $A \gg B$  among positive invertible operators  $A, B > 0$  on a Hilbert space is introduced by  $\log A \geq \log B$ . Uchiyama's method brings us the Furuta inequality for the chaotic order from the Furuta inequality. Related to this, Furuta posed the following question: For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \gg B$  if and only if

$$A^{r-t} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(r-t)/((p-t)s+r)} \quad (\text{Q})$$

holds for all  $p \geq 1$ ,  $r \geq t$ ,  $s \geq 1$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$ ? Recently he gave a counterexample to the “only if” part. In this note, we point out that condition (Q) characterizes the operator order  $A \geq B$ . Moreover, (Q) characterizes the spectral order by extending the bounds of  $t$ . © 2002 Elsevier Science Inc. All rights reserved.

**Keywords:** Furuta inequality; Grand Furuta inequality; Chaotic order; Spectral order

## 1. Introduction

Throughout this note, a capital letter means a (bounded linear) operator on a Hilbert space  $H$ . An operator  $T$  is said to be *positive*, in symbol,  $T \geq 0$  if  $(Tx, x) \geq 0$  for all  $x \in H$ . In particular, we denote by  $A > 0$  if  $A \geq 0$  is invertible. The order  $A \geq B$  for

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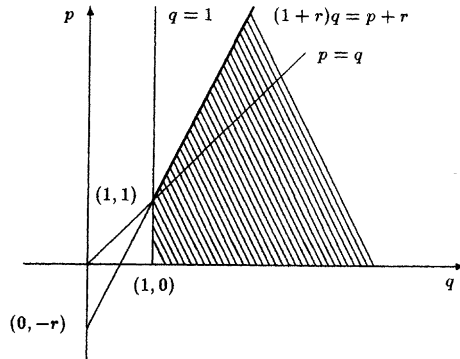


Fig. 1.

self-adjoint operators  $A$  and  $B$  is defined by  $A - B \geq 0$ . If  $A \geq B > 0$ , then the operator monotonicity of the logarithmic function yields the chaotic order  $A \gg B$ .

We now recall the Furuta inequality [11] which is a beautiful and historical extension of the Löwner–Heinz inequality [18,22]. We call it (FI) simply.

**The Furuta inequality.** If  $A \geq B \geq 0$ , then for each  $r \geq 0$ ,

$$(i) \quad (B^{r/2} A^p B^{r/2})^{1/q} \geq (B^{r/2} B^p B^{r/2})^{1/q}$$

and

$$(ii) \quad (A^{r/2} A^p A^{r/2})^{1/q} \geq (A^{r/2} B^p A^{r/2})^{1/q}$$

hold for  $p \geq 0$  and  $q \geq 1$  with

$$(1+r)q \geq p+r.$$

We refer [3,19] for mean theoretic proofs, and [12] for a one-page proof of it. The best possibility of the domain drawn in Fig. 1 is proved by Tanahashi [24].

On the other hand, motivated by Ando [1], the Furuta inequality for the chaotic order was shown in [4,13], cf. [6,7,28,30], which is named (FC) in the below:

If  $A \gg B$  for  $A, B > 0$ , then

$$A^r \geq \left( A^{r/2} B^p A^{r/2} \right)^{r/(p+r)}$$

holds for all  $p, r \geq 0$ .

Afterwards, Furuta [14] himself generalized the Furuta inequality, which interpolates the Furuta inequality and the Ando–Hiai one [2].

**The grand Furuta inequality.** If  $A \geq B > 0$ , then for each  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$A^{1-t+r} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(1-t+r)/((p-t)s+r)}$$

holds for all  $s \geq 1$ ,  $p \geq 1$  and  $r \geq t$ .

We call it (GFI) simply and refer [8] for a mean theoretic approach and [15] for a one-page proof. Tanahashi [25] also proved the best possibility of the power of (GFI) and its simplified proof is given in [10,28].

## 2. Uchiyama's method

Uchiyama [27] pointed out that (FI) implies (FC) by a marvelous method. In Furuta's recent paper [17], the heart of Uchiyama's method is expressed as

$$\left(1 + \frac{\log X}{n}\right)^n \rightarrow X \quad (\text{U})$$

for all  $X > 0$ . We now rephrase Uchiyama's proof of (FC) by using (U): Suppose that  $\log A \geq \log B$  for  $A, B > 0$  and  $p, r \geq 0$ . Then we have

$$A_n = 1 + \frac{\log A}{n} \geq B_n = 1 + \frac{\log B}{n} > 0$$

for sufficiently large  $n$ . Assuming (FI), we have

$$A_n^{1+nr} \geq (A_n^{nr/2} B_n^{np} A_n^{nr/2})^{(1+nr)/(np+nr)}.$$

Taking  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , it follows from (U) and  $A_n \rightarrow 1$  that

$$A^r \geq (A^{r/2} B^p A^{r/2})^{r/(p+r)},$$

that is, (FC) is proved.

Next we cite a proof of (GFI)  $\Rightarrow$  (FC) proved by Furuta [17], for convenience. Also we suppose that  $\log A \geq \log B$  for  $A, B > 0$  and  $p, r \geq 0$ . We apply (GFI) to  $np, nr, s = 1, t = \min\{1, r\}$  and  $A_n \geq B_n > 0$ , where  $A_n$  and  $B_n$  are as in above, namely

$$A_n^{1-t+nr} \geq \left\{ A_n^{nr/2} \left( A_n^{-t/2} B_n^{np} A_n^{-t/2} \right)^s A_n^{nr/2} \right\}^{(1-t+nr)/(np-t+nr)}.$$

Hence we have (FC) by taking  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

## 3. Furuta's question

Related to (GFI) and (FC), Furuta posed the following question for himself about five years ago.

**Furuta's question.** For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \gg B$  if and only if

$$A^{r-t} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(r-t)/((p-t)s+r)} \quad (\text{Q})$$

holds for all  $p \geq 1, r \geq t, s \geq 1$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$ ?

Since it follows from (FC) that (Q) implies  $A \gg B$  by taking  $t = 0$  and  $s = 1$ , the converse is essential in the question. Recently Furuta himself gave a counterexample in [17]. Namely (Q) is not necessary to the chaotic order  $A \gg B$ . One can infer from reading between the lines that the example was based on his tough work. As a matter of fact, it was given by  $A = e^X$  and  $B = e^Y$ , where

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

Then  $\log A = X \geq Y = \log B$  and

$$A^{r-t} \not\geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(r-t)/((p-t)s+r)} \quad (2)$$

for  $r = 2, t = 1, s = 2$  and  $p = 2$ .

We now point out that (Q) characterizes the operator order  $A \geq B$  for  $A, B > 0$ . As an immediate consequence, Furuta's question is not true because the chaotic order is exactly weaker than the operator order.

**Theorem 1.** For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \geq B$  if and only if (Q) is satisfied, i.e.,

$$A^{r-t} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(r-t)/((p-t)s+r)} \quad (Q)$$

holds for all  $p \geq 1, r \geq t, s \geq 1$  and  $t \in [0, 1]$ .

**Proof.** First of all, we recall the following Kantorovich type operator inequality, Theorem 6' in [5], cf. also [20,29]: If  $A \geq C$  for  $A, C > 0$  and  $0 < m \leq A \leq M$ , then

$$\frac{(M+m)^2}{4Mm} A^2 \geq C^2. \quad (K)$$

We now suppose that (Q) is satisfied and  $0 < m \leq A \leq M$ . If we take  $p = t = 1$  and  $r = 2$  in (Q), then we have

$$A \geq \left\{ A \left( A^{-1/2} B A^{-1/2} \right)^s A \right\}^{1/2}, \quad (3)$$

so that

$$\frac{(M+m)^2}{4Mm} A^2 \geq A \left( A^{-1/2} B A^{-1/2} \right)^s A \quad (4)$$

by (K). Hence it implies that

$$\left( \frac{(M+m)^2}{4Mm} \right)^{1/s} \geq A^{-1/2} B A^{-1/2} \quad (5)$$

for all  $s \geq 1$  and so  $1 \geq A^{-1/2} B A^{-1/2}$ , or equivalently  $A \geq B$ .

Conversely, if  $A \geq B$ , then (GFI) says that for each  $t \in [0, 1]$ ,

$$A^{1-t+r} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(1-t+r)/((p-t)s+r)}$$

holds for all  $s \geq 1$ ,  $p \geq 1$  and  $r \geq t$ . Since  $(r - t)/(1 - t + r) \in [0, 1]$ , the Löwner–Heinz inequality implies that (Q) holds for all  $s \geq 1$ ,  $p \geq 1$  and  $r \geq t$ .

So the proof is complete.  $\square$

Moreover, we have the following extension of Theorem 1, which says that the bounds of  $t$  is very important in such discussion:

**Theorem 2.** For each  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A^\alpha \geq B^\alpha$ , where the case  $\alpha = 0$  means  $\log A \geq \log B$ , if and only if (Q) holds for all  $p \geq \alpha$ ,  $r \geq t$ ,  $s \geq 1$  and  $t \in [0, \alpha]$ .

**Proof.** The case  $\alpha = 0$  is just ensured by (FC). For each  $\alpha > 0$ , we can follow Theorem 1 by replacing as  $A_1 = A^\alpha$  and  $B_1 = B^\alpha$ .  $\square$

Since the self-adjoint operators do not form a complete vector lattice, Olson [23] introduced a new order among the self-adjoint operators, by which it becomes a conditionally complete lattice, cf. also [9].

Let  $E_t$  (resp.  $F_t$ ) be the resolution of the identity of  $A$  (resp.  $B$ ), i.e.,

$$A = \int t \, dE_t \quad \text{and} \quad B = \int t \, dF_t.$$

Then the spectral order  $A \succeq B$  holds if  $E_t \leq F_t$  for all  $t$ . He also proved: For positive operators  $A$  and  $B$ ,  $A \succeq B$  if and only if

$$A^n \geq B^n \quad \text{for all } n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

In addition, several useful properties of the spectral order are given by Uchiyama [26].

Anyway, as a consequence of Theorem 2, we have the following characterization of the spectral order by virtue of Olson's theorem:

**Theorem 3.** For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \succeq B$  if and only if for each  $\alpha > 0$ , (Q) holds for all  $p \geq \alpha$ ,  $r \geq t$ ,  $s \geq 1$  and  $t \in [0, \alpha]$ .

In addition, we have the following slight variant of Theorem 3:

**Theorem 4.** For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \succeq B$  if and only if (Q) holds for all  $p, r \geq t \geq 1$  and  $s \geq 1$ .

**Proof.** For the sake of completeness, we cite the proof. Suppose that (Q) holds for all  $p, r \geq t \geq 1$  and  $s \geq 1$ . We take  $p = t = n$  and  $r = 2n$  for a given  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then, as in the proof of Theorem 1, we have

$$A^n \geq \left\{ A^n \left( A^{-n/2} B^n A^{-n/2} \right)^s A^n \right\}^{1/2},$$

so that (K) implies

$$\frac{(M^n + m^n)^2}{4M^n m^n} \geq \left( A^{-n/2} B^n A^{-n/2} \right)^s.$$

Therefore we have  $A^n \geq B^n$ , which means that  $A \geq B$  by Olson's theorem.

The converse follows from Theorem 3.  $\square$

#### 4. The chaotic order

As stated in front of Theorem 2, we should pay our attention to the bounds of  $t$ , cf. [20]. So we consider the case  $t \leq 0$  and give an affirmative answer to Furuta's question in some sense.

For the sake of convenience, we cite the following useful lemma due to Furuta [14]:

**Lemma F.** For  $A, B > 0$  and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$(AB^2A)^\alpha = AB(BA^2B)^{\alpha-1}BA,$$

or simply  $(X^*X)^\alpha = X^*(XX^*)^{\alpha-1}X$  for invertible  $X$ .

**Lemma 1.** If  $A \gg B$  for  $A, B > 0$  and  $0 \leq p \leq \beta \leq 2p - t$  for some  $t \leq 0$ , then

$$\left( B^{p/2} A^{-t} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-t)} \leq \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-u)} \quad (6)$$

for  $u \leq t$ .

**Proof.** We first prove that

$$B^{p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(t-p)/(p-u)} B^{p/2} \leq A^t$$

for  $p \geq 0$  and  $u \leq t \leq 0$ , cf. [21]. Actually it follows from Lemma F and (FC) that

$$\begin{aligned} & B^{p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(t-p)/(p-u)} B^{p/2} \\ &= \left[ B^{-p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(p-t)/(p-u)} B^{-p/2} \right]^{-1} \\ &= \left[ A^{-u/2} \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{(u-t)/(p-u)} A^{-u/2} \right]^{-1} \\ &= A^{u/2} \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{(t-u)/(p-u)} A^{u/2} \\ &= A^{u/2} \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{(-u/(p-u))((t-u)/-u)} A^{u/2} \\ &\leq A^{u/2} A^{-u(t-u)/-u} A^{u/2} \\ &= A^t. \end{aligned}$$

By using this, we have

$$\begin{aligned} & \left( B^{p/2} A^{-t} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-t)} \\ & \leq \left( B^{p/2} B^{-p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(p-t)/(p-u)} \times B^{-p/2} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-t)} \\ & = \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-u)}. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

**Theorem 5.** For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \gg B$  if and only if

$$A^{r-t} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(r-t)/((p-t)s+r)} \quad (\text{Q})$$

holds for all  $p \geq 0$ ,  $r \geq 0$ ,  $s \in [1, 2]$  and  $t \leq 0$ .

**Proof.** Suppose that  $A \gg B$ . We put  $\beta = (p-t)s + t$  and  $u = t - r \leq t \leq 0$  for convenience. Then  $1 \leq s \leq 2$  if and only if  $p \leq \beta \leq 2p - t$  and conclusion (Q) is rephrased as follows:

$$A^{-u} \geq \left\{ A^{(t-u)/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^{(\beta-t)/(p-t)} A^{(t-u)/2} \right\}^{-u/(\beta-u)}$$

for  $0 \leq p \leq \beta \leq 2p - t$  and  $u \leq t \leq 0$ .

We now prove it, which depends on the use of the lemma (Lemma F) twice and (FC):

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{ A^{(t-u)/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^{(\beta-t)/(p-t)} A^{(t-u)/2} \right\}^{-u/(\beta-u)} \\ & = \left\{ A^{-u/2} B^{p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-t} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-t)} B^{p/2} A^{-u/2} \right\}^{-u/(\beta-u)} \\ & \leq \left\{ A^{-u/2} B^{p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-u)} B^{p/2} A^{-u/2} \right\}^{-u/(\beta-u)} \\ & = \left\{ \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-u)+1} \right\}^{-u/(\beta-u)} \\ & = \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{-u/(p-u)} \\ & \leq A^{-u}. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely suppose that (Q) is satisfied. If we take  $t = 0$  and  $s = 1$ , then we have (FC). So the proof is complete.  $\square$

In addition, Professor Furuta kindly suggested us a related result by himself [16; Remark 2], which leads us the following parallel result to Theorem 5:

**Theorem 6.** For  $A, B > 0$ ,  $A \geq B$  if and only if

$$A^{1+r-t} \geq \left\{ A^{r/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^s A^{r/2} \right\}^{(1+r-t)/((p-t)s+r)} \quad (Q')$$

holds for all  $p \geq 1$ ,  $r \geq 0$ ,  $s \in [1, 2]$  and  $t \leq 0$ .

**Proof.** The proof is quite similar to that of Theorem 5.

Suppose that  $A \geq B$ . We put  $\beta = (p-t)s + t$  and  $u = t - r \leq t \leq 0$ . As in the proof of Theorem 5,  $1 \leq s \leq 2$  if and only if  $p \leq \beta \leq 2p - t$  and the conclusion (Q') is rephrased as follows:

$$A^{1-u} \geq \left\{ A^{(t-u)/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^{(\beta-t)/(p-t)} A^{(t-u)/2} \right\}^{(1-u)/(\beta-u)}$$

for  $1 \leq p \leq \beta \leq 2p - t$  and  $u \leq t \leq 0$ . It is proved by the use of Lemma 1, Lemma F twice and the Furuta inequality:

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\{ A^{(t-u)/2} \left( A^{-t/2} B^p A^{-t/2} \right)^{(\beta-t)/(p-t)} A^{(t-u)/2} \right\}^{(1-u)/(\beta-u)} \\ &= \left\{ A^{-u/2} B^{p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-t} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-t)} B^{p/2} A^{-u/2} \right\}^{(1-u)/(\beta-u)} \\ &\leq \left\{ A^{-u/2} B^{p/2} \left( B^{p/2} A^{-u} B^{p/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/(p-u)} B^{p/2} A^{-u/2} \right\}^{(1-u)/(\beta-u)} \\ &= \left\{ \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{(\beta-p)/((p-u)+1)} \right\}^{(1-u)/(\beta-u)} \\ &= \left( A^{-u/2} B^p A^{-u/2} \right)^{(1-u)/(p-u)} \\ &\leq A^{1-u}. \end{aligned}$$

Conversely suppose that (Q') is satisfied. If we take  $r = t = 0$  and  $p = s = 1$ , then we have  $A \geq B$ . So the proof is complete.  $\square$

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